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NEWS RELEASE

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NEWS RELEASE

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DUI Victim's Tree Update 7 Injured and 1 Killed in Alcohol-Related Crashes Last Week

Dover – The first alcohol-related death of the holiday season occurred Dec. 15th, when according to State Police, a pedestrian impaired by both alcohol and drugs attempted to cross Route 2 in New Castle County and was struck by a vehicle. This means the first red light bulb will be placed on the DUI Victim's Trees located in the Dover DMV's statewide.

Additionally, 7 people were injured in alcohol – related crashes between Dec. 15th and the 21st meaning that 7 green bulbs will be added to the tree as well. This brings the total number of people injured in impaired driving crashes since Thanksgiving to 41.

The DUI Victim's Tree project memorializes alcohol-related deaths and injuries which occur in Delaware between Thanksgiving and New Year's Day by placing colored light bulbs on the tree to represent each victim. Each red bulb on the tree symbolizes someone killed in an alcohol-related crash during this time, and each green light bulb symbolizes someone injured in an impaired driving crash. Last year, two people were killed and 88 injured in alcohol-related crashes in Delaware during the holiday season.

The DUI Victim's Tree is part of the Office of Highway Safety's 10th Annual Safe Family Holiday Campaign, an stepped up enforcement and awareness initiative for the holiday season.

Forty-two (35%) of Delaware 120 traffic deaths since January 1st have been alcohol-related. This is a 10% decrease in impaired driving related deaths compared to this time last year.

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